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Barry Koltnow, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

"AS MAJESTIC AS A MUSICAL DARES TO BECOME BEFORE IT TURNS TO OPERA: VISUALLY SUMPTUOUS...THANK HEAVEN FOR DONALD O'CONNOR."
Sylvie Drake, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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LOS ANGELES CIVIC LIGHT OPERA

STAGE WEEK

Continued from 33rd Page

Patrick's "The Curious Savage."

□

The Melrose Theater, which is developing a fondness for musicals ("Early Irving" and "In the Words of Noel Coward" have played its last couple of seasons), is coming out with a new one Friday. "New Faces of 1952," the Leonard Sillman revue that featured Alice Ghostley, Eartha Kitt, Ronnie Graham and Paul Lynde, among others, may sound dated, but director Alex Palermo thinks it's as fresh as if it had just been minted. "It's beautifully written (a fellow named Mel Brooks wrote one of the sketches) and it manages to catch the flavor of the '50s while being contemporary," said Palermo.

Some of the most popular songs include "I'm in Love With Miss Logan," "Monotonous," "Waltzing in Venice" and "Love Is a Simple Thing," sung by the new faces of Elizabeth Savage, Roger Newman, Larry Gillman, JoMarie Ward and Sandy Freeman, among others.

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Other openings for the week include the N. Richard Nash, John Kander and Fred Ebb musical, "The Happy Time," which had a pre-Broadway tryout at the Ahmanson Theatre in 1967. It was produced by David Merrick and directed by the late Gower Champion, and won two Tony Awards. Gary Gardner, who is now on UCLA's drama faculty, was an usher during the Ahmanson run, and thinks the complexity of the staging has kept a fine score away from the public. He directs a simplified version that opens Thursday at UCLA's Summer Theater Workshop at Macgowan Hall.

The Ground Zero Club is offering an avant-variety multimedia show at the Bullring on Las Palmas Monday. The poetry, dance, satire and music performance features R. Meltzer, Ivan "E." Roth, members of the Age of Consent, Adzo Video, the U.S. Army and Screw Magazine. Their flyer includes a tag line from something called "Guns and Ammo" that reads, "A delightful evening's entertainment on getting blown straight to hell. Riveting."

Steve Tesich's family comedy, "The Carpenters," opens next Sunday at The Fifth Street Studio Theater. Albert Morgenstern directs Herb Armstrong, Mary Carver, Tim Cunningham, Iva Lane and Shannon Presby.

Michael Rupert stars as Tony Swan, a pop singer who holds forth in "In the Blue Room," a new musical written by Stephen Downs, who is remembered as the creator of "Festival." It opens next Sunday at the Cast.

□

LATE CUES: Elizabeth Diggs' "Close Ties," which was part of the L.A. Free Public Theater this season, opens at Houston's Nina Vance Alley Theater in October. Tom Topor's "Nuts," which is still drawing at the L.A. Stage Co., opens in January. . . . The Los Angeles Children's Museum is back in action with its third annual Summer Family Performance Festival, which got under way at the Triforium at the City Mall downtown on July 10. Today African storyteller Onochie Chukwara plays in "Rhythms of the Village." □

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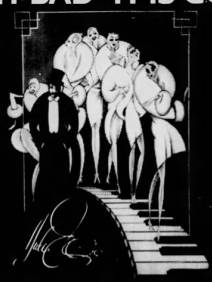

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